(b) The main reasons for low capacity utilisation in some of the public sector plants are design deficiencies, the ageing of the plants, power problems, equipment, breakdowns, coal based technology being tried for the first tine in the country, shortage of raw materials in the case of some units and labour problems.

(c) Some of the steps taken/being taken are:—

(i) captive power plants have been set up in all the units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and the Talcher unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(ii) assistance is being provided in arranging for essential inputs;

(iii) Replacement/renewal of equipments;

(iv) Constant monitoring by preventive and predictive maintenance;

(v) Training of operators and technicians.

Meeting of Board of Directors of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

3772. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation evolved new manning set-up for the company excluding its Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation minus Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division has been referred to BIFR; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Board of Directors of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited have approved a new manning set-up for the Company, in which the Marketing and Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research activities have been merged.

(b) and (c) In terms of Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), which is a sick company, has to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

The Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division is part of HFC.

Loan Licence System

3773. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reintroduce the 'Loan Licence System' for the manufacture of drugs; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and if not the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) This relates to the Ministry of Health. The required information to the extent available will be collected from the Ministry of Health and F.W. and laid on the Table of the House.

Voluntary Retirement Plan for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India

3774. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement the voluntary retirement scheme in respect of the two sick public sector units namely The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the rein the position of different units located at various places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) have introduced the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Voluntary Retirement Scheme in their units.

(b) The numbers of employees who have taken voluntary retirement since the introduction of BPE's Voluntary Retire-